NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT. PROPRIETOR.

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A STREET STREET.

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44TH YEAR......NO. 347

AMUSEMENTS TO-DAY AND EVENING.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC-MIGNON MATINEE. WALLACK'S THEATRE-ESTRILE. Matinee, NIBLO'S THEATRE-ENCHANTMENT. Matinee.
HAVERLY'S THEATRE-GALLEY SLAVE, Matinee. GRAND OPERA-OUR ANABICAN COUSIN. Matinee. STANDARD THEATRE-PRINCESS TOTO. Matinos. DALY'S THEATRE-AN ARABIAN NIGHT. Matinee THALIA-DER MANN DER DEBUTANTIN. Matines.
BROADWAY OPERA HOUSE-STRATEGISTS. Matines. FIFTH AMENUE-H. M. S. PINAFORE. Matines. BOOTH'S THEATRE-MIGNON. Matinee. GERMANIA THEATRE-EIN WEIR AUS DER VOLKE. ABERLE'S THEATRE-THE BOY DETECTIVE. Matinea PARK THEATRE-FRITZ IN IRRLAND. Matinee. UNION SQUARE THEATRE-FRENCH PLATS. Matines SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS-Matingo. TONY PASTOR'S THEATRE-VARISTY. KOSTER & BIAL'S CONCERT HALL NEW YORK AQUARIUM.
COMIQUE—MULLIGAN GUARDS' CHRISTMAS. Matinea STEINWAY HALL-ARION SOCIETY CONCERT. CHICKERING HALL-HARP CONCERT-DICKENS MATINEE MADISON SQUARE GARDEN-CATTLE SHOW. AMERICAN INSTITUTE-DAIRY FAIR.

WITH SUPPLEMENT

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1879.

Advertisers are respectfully requested to hand in their advertisements previous to eight o'clock in the evening to insure proper classification.

The probabilities are that the weather in New York and its ricinity to-day will be cold and Jair. To-morrow it will be slightly warmer and clear.

WALL STREET YESTERDAY .- Money on call was easy until the closing hour at the Exchange. when it was bid up to 7 per cent and an extra "commission." The stock market was firm until the afternoon, when a decline was recorded. and the market closed weak. For bonds of all classes there was a fair demand, and prices were steady. Foreign exchange was weak.

WHO SHALL BE the new Railroad King is an interesting question.

THE WAYS OF EMIGRANT AGENTS are dark, but some of them were explained in a police court yesterday.

Balbo, the Italian wife murderer, wants a fish diet while awaiting execution. Trifles indicate a man's true character.

Mr. TALMAGE stands on the defensive. By and by he proposes to give as well as take blows. It's a very pretty fight already.

DURING THE FOUR MONTHS ending yesterday the total amount of gold brought to this port from Europe was \$71,672,950, or an average of \$513,826 for every day of the one hundred and twenty-one. These figures need no com-

ALL SUBURBAN TOWNS should learn the lesson Pa. A fire that might have been checked by proper fire apparatus devastated the entire town of eighty houses, causing a loss of one hundred and sixty thousand dollars and rendering the whole population homeless. Steam fire engines are cheap investments in villages as well as in

AN AFGHAN VICTORY is reported in our cable despatches. Generals Massy and Macpherson joined forces in the Chardeh Valley, but met an mense body of hillmen, who repulsed the British attack and captured four guns, which were, however, subsequently recovered. The total absence of details of the battle, explaining why the English lost their artillery, shows what sort of news may be expected from military cor respondents under existing regulations. Indeed, the official account gives the most information, which, no doubt, is what the government intended when it fettered newspaper correspondents in the field. It needs a MacGaban or a Forbes to describe engagements as they really

LOVERS OF TRUE SPORT will regret to see th Hanlan-Courtney dispute break out again. We had hoped that the public had heard the last of these two professionals, but it appears we are to have another deluge of challenges and tele grams, interviews, explanations and denials. The referee would do well to wash his hands of the whole matter, for there is not the slightest chance that Hanlan and Courtney will ever row against each other. Even if Courtney con sented to row no one would believe it to be a fair contest, and Hanlan must change his own tactics before the public will believe that even he can row a square, honest race. If professional rowing is to be encouraged in this country let'us have prizes offered open to all comers, the best man to take the money and be declared champion. We have no champion oarsman now rightfully holding the title.

THE WEATHER.—The storm centre is now moving over the Atlantic north of latitude forty-five degrees, attended by brisk to high winds, snow and rain. The barometer rose throughout all the territory east of the Rocky Mountains, except in the extreme Northwest, where a slight fall occurred toward evening, and on the South Atlantic coast, where the influence of a disturbance that is passing northeastward from the West Indies is felt. Rain fell during the early part of the morning in the Middle Atlantic States, and snow was reported in New England and the lower lake regions. The weather was generally fair throughout all the districts except on the South Atlantic coast, where cloudiness prevailed. The temperature fell decidedly in all sections of the country and is now considerably below the mean in the Northwest and over the upper lakes. The winds have been from fresh to brisk on the New England and South Atlantic coasts and light slsewhere. The weather over the British Islands, although fine at present, is likely to become unsettled during the day, owing to the movement of a depression toward the cousts. The weather in New York and its vicinity to-day will be cold and fair. To-morrow it will be slightly warmer and clear.

Secretary Sherman's Plan for a Stable National Currency.

The interesting conversation with Mr. Sherman which we printed yesterday deserves the maturest reflection and consideration of the country. It is apparent that the Secretary has digested his views into a system with such a regular adjustment of mutually supporting parts as gives it at least the merit of symmetry, if not of perfect solidity. Whether a structure on his plan would be built for permanence, as he intends and believes, or would be only a useful stage and resting place in the progress of the country toward something better, is a question which we need not go into at present. It suffices for immediate practical aims that it would be a long stride in the right direction. We think it fair to Mr. Sherman and consistent with our publie duty to explain his plan as viewed on its favorable side. We desire to see it taken up by Congress and put through the ordeal of debate. If it has weak points an able debate will disclose them. That it has strong points-some very strong points-we are constrained to concede, and at present the only weighty question in respect to it is whether Mr. Sherman's proposed system should be permanent or temporary. But this is a question of no real present importance unless the temporary adoption of the plan would obstruct a transition to the ultimate ideal system which many of us think would be better. In our judgment instead of obstructing progress to such a system it would facilitate it if time and experience should convince the country that further changes were necessary. We concede that Mr. Sherman's plan is valuable so far as it goes, and are content to waive and postpone the question of its permanence, recognizing the truth that in all such matters experience is the safest guide, and that sudden and sweeping changes in a thing so delicate as the currency should not be made except on the strongest grounds of necessity.

The more fully Secretary Sherman's plan is examined the more apparent it will become that its adoption would accomplish a great amount of good with the least possible innovation. Like the transition to specie payments at the beginning of the year, the change would scarcely be perceived in any of the walks of business, and yet, like the resumption of specie payments, it would be followed by consequences so salutary as to silence opposition. The change would be imperceptible, because it would not affect the value of the United States notes, and would leave them still in circulation. They are as good as gold now, not because they are a legal tender, but because gold can always be had for them by asking for it. They will continue as good as gold after they are divested of the legal tender function for the same rea-

son. That anybody should resist a change which would be in all respects so safe illustrates the strength of unreasoning prejudice. If the question can be put through the ordeal of thorough debate in Congress it will be found that the advocates of legal tender have not a leg to stand on. We desire to call attention to the claims

of Mr. Sherman's policy as a system. It must be admitted that as a system or related framework it is comprehensive. It includes every part of existing currency and arranges them all in defined relations and due subordination. In the metallic part there is a place for gold and a subaltern place for silver. In the paper part there is a place for United States notes as a regulator and a place for bank notes as the ble of ready expansion or contraction in accommodation to the ever varying wants of business. It contemplates a mutual adjustment between coin and notes for keeping the notes always at par with coin and making the supply of coin always adequate both for the exigencies of foreign trade and for reducing the volume of paper when it becomes excessive. A system thus constructed with a sort of architectural symmetry and composed of mutually supporting parts ought, in fairness to its author, to be judged as a whole; but apart from its merits in this view and independent of its elaborate adjustments we insist on the value of that separate and fundamental feature which contemplates the withdrawal of the legal tender function from the greenbacks. This is safe, wise and necessary, with or without Mr. Sherman's proposed adjuncts.

But there is a great deal to be said for his system as a mutually related whole. It is not the project of a theoretical or visionary adventurer in the realms of finance. Mr. Sherman, who was for nearly twenty years the chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance before he became Secretary of the Treasury, has a riper experience in questions of this kind and has had larger opportunities of intercourse with practical ousiness men of every grade than any other statesman. By the cast of his mind he is not a theorist, but a man of affairs, and, what is not less important in his responsible position, he is as good a judge of the tendencies of public opinion as he is of financial consequences. The deliberate views of a man thus equipped are entitled to a respectful examination.

Refraining from excursions into a financial Utopia, Mr. Sherman aims to utilize the existing situation by making his system a natural outgrowth of the state of facts with which he has to deal. He is like an architect who, instead of tearing down defective structure, inserts improvements which make the new building a skilful modification and extension of the old one. It is infinitely better, especially in a matter so delicate and wide-reaching as the currency, to grow out of a faulty system than to be jerked out of it.

A weighty and substantial proof that Mr. Sherman's system is not a visionary innovation is the fact that in its essential features it does not materially differ from the English system, which has stood the test of experince since the passage of Sir Robert Peel's Bank act in 1844. There are superficial differences of mere drapery and forms, but Mr. Sherman's system is the English system modified in adaptation to our circumstances. In the English system there is but one great coin | the present state of public opinion, and it | wanton slaughter, as bad as the firing upon

reserve for the commerce of the United Kingdom. Mr. Sherman contemplates one great coin reserve for the United States. Under the English system the multitude of minor banks discharge their obligations by payment of Bank of England notes, as Mr. herman would have our numerous national banks discharge their obligations by paying United States notes. The English system assumes as its basis that a certain amount of notes will always be in use in spite of fluctuations, and provides only for the prompt redemption of the residue; and it is on a similar assumption that Mr. Sherman rests his retention of a specified amount of greenbacks. Sir Robert Peel found in the statistics of a long preceding period that the circulation of the Bank of England never sank so low as sixteen million pounds sterling, and he accordingly allowed the issue of fourteen million pounds sterling on securities without any provision for their redemption in coin; but above that limit he required a cash reserve equal to the amount of the notes. Mr. Sherman applies that principle in a manner suited to our circumstances. He would keep three hundred million dollars of United States notes in circulation as part of the currency and make provision for the elasticity of the large remainder by having it issued by the national banks.

In all the assaults on Sir Robert Peel's Bank act the assailants have never questioned the expediency and reasoning of that feature of it which establishes a single great coin reserve for the whole country. If it were distributed among all the separate banks a run on a few of the weakest of them might create a panic and force them all into suspension. To borrow the simile of an eminent English financial writer, "a fire originating in a pigsty may destroy a palace." Mr. Sherman seeks to avoid this danger by concentrating and fortifying the gold reserve of the country. It is this consideration rather than the saving to the government of circulating its own notes that lies at the foundation of this part of his plan. A great central coin reserve, always accessible and easy to be drawn upon, is not practicable under our system by any other method. This part of the plan and the reasons for it are entitled to fair discussion and consideration, since the most successful of commercial nations regards a great single reserve of coin as the corner stone of its monetary system.

The Dorsey Suit Against Jeff Davis. We print an abstract of a bill in equity which has been filed in the United States Circuit Court in Louisians by the heirs of the late Mrs. Sarah A. Dorsey against Mr. Jefferson Davis to set aside Mrs. Dorsey's will. The grounds on which relief is sought are that the testatrix was of unsound mind and unduly influenced by Mr. Davis, and the bill contains the usual prayers for an account, an injunction and such other orders as would naturally ensue if the principal charge should be sustained. The specifications of this charge will be read with curious interest, not only on account of the celebrity of the defendant, but also of the character of the mania under which, it is alleged, that Mrs. Dorsey was laboring and of the fascination Mr Davis is alleged to have exercised over her mind.

The general outline of the case is too well known to the public to need extensive repetition. Mrs. Dorsey, a wealthy widow. owning large tracts of land in Louisiana and Mississippi, invited Mr. Davis to make where she lived, in the latter State, and soon afterward executed a general power of attorney to him, having previously made a will devising to him, as "ex-President of the Confederate States." her whole estate, to the exclusion of the plaintiffs in this suit. She died on the 4th of last July and the will was admitted to probate, and Mr. Davis has since exercised full control of the property. A few months before her death she had conveyed the Beauvoir plantation to him by deed. These plaintiffs contend that she was crazy on the subject of his personal virtues, intellectual powers and political sufferings; that she insisted that the Confederate States were still existing and would not recognize herself as a citizen of any other national jurisdiction; and that he artfully improved his opportunities of association with her to foment these delusions and turn them to his pecuniary profit. The bill alleges that it was a mania of recent origin. and that although she sympathized with the South during the civil war she changed her political opinions during a residence North in 1876 and did not revert to the former sympathy till after Mr. Davis began to live at Beauvoir. In exhibition of her peculiarities of mind it alleges that besides being successively a Roman Catholic, a Presbyterian and a Protestant Episcopalian, she embraced the faith of some Hindoo sect of pagans, but died a Christian again.

Inasmuch as this bill of complaint of course is a one-sided presentation of the case we forbear from any discussion of its merits.

Free Ships.

We cannot look with any favor upon attempts in Congress to bring up the question of free ships in such a way as to alarm that great interest which is engaged in the coasting trade. It is folly to bring in side issues and provoke needless opposition when we need all the strength we can muster in fighting the main battle. If we desire to defeat the proposal to give an American registry to foreign built ships owned by American citizens we would couple it with a proposal to admit foreign ships to our coasting trade and thus array one of the most important, wealthy and active interests of the country in fierce opposition. It is not our domestic but our foreign navigation that needs to be rehabilitated. It is inexpedient to attempt to modify our navigation acts at present any further than may be necessary for recovering what we have lost in the transportation of our foreign commerce. The free purchase of iron steamers to be employed in the foreign trade is all we can expect to accomplish in

is better to limit our efforts to what is practicable. We deprecate penny wise pound foolish projects on this great subject, and still more overloading the question with demands which would sink every chance of reform in our navigation laws.

Reassuring Conversations with the

President. Our correspondent at Washington sends the substance of two conversations with President Hayes on the great and engrossing topic of the legal tender notes. One of these conversations was with General Hawley, who became so much interested that he requested and received the President's permission to take it down in writing, with a view to publication. General Hawley's notes were read to the President, who indorsed their correctness, so there can be no question of the authenticity of this statement of the President's position. We also print a report of a conversation of the President in the same sense with another member of Congress,

While the President's remarks lack the precision of statement and comprehensive grasp of the subject evinced by Secretary Sherman in the important interview which we published yesterday, he does not retreat in the least from the sound doctrines of his Message. He desires that the subject be thoroughly debated in Congress, and is persuaded that converts will be made by the discussion. He has certainly been misrepresented by Mr. Fort, who must either have misapprehended what the President said to him in their two conversations or have wilfully garbled and distorted it. Because the President received him with courtesy and did not think it consistent with his dignity to enter the lists as a disputant or intellectual gladiator Mr. Fort seems to have jumped to the inference that the most important part of the Message was empty buncombe. This mistake (to call it by no harsher name) is now corrected once for all, and we trust we shall hear no more about the President's vacillation. The President speaks with approval of Senator Bayard's resolution and thinks that sound money men of both parties should warmly support it. He thinks this great question rises above party, but that the republicans will act an unworthy part if they decline to advance in the same direction in which they have been moving for the last five years. It will be absurd and ludierous for anybody to say hereafter that the President wishes the subject to be untouched by Cougress when he has expressed so strong a desire to have it ably debated as early as possible, and expects the right side to be largely reinforced by the debate.

The Cold Weather in Europe-A Remarkable Prediction Verified.

The cable news of the last few days, announcing severely cold weather as prevailing over Great Britain and the Continent, indicates the continuance of the great "cold wave" which set in at London on October 27, 1878, and has ever since with slight interruptions, been the marked and memorable feature of European meteorology. The official English reports show that the eight months ending with June 30 last were throughout the coldest period recorded in the past sixty-five years; and the subsequent thermometric range, though not yet published, will, no doubt, be found somewhat abnormally low. "The mean temperature," Mr. Glaisher now writes, "was only 41.6 degrees at London, being lower than any which has occurred his home at a plantation called Beauvoir, in the present century since 1813-14, when was only 40.4 degrees." Another English authority similarly cites the period "of the past twelve months," closing November 13th ult., as one of "all but unexampled

cold dull weather." This remarkably protracted chilling weather is a singular fulfilment of a prediction made February 22, 1872-six and a half years before the event. At this last date the Astronomer Royal of Scotland published in Nature his deductions from the thermal data of the Royal Observatory at Edinburgh for thirty-two years, which clearly show the recurrence of a "great heat wave every eleven years and a fraction." But the Edinburgh observations evinced a period of "extreme sold close on either side of the great heat wave," so that the Astronomer Royal was then led to predict:-"The next similar cold wave will occur in September, 1878." This forecast, so strikingly fulfilled by the frigid season which set in over England in the fall of 1878 and has not yet closed, was based by Professor Piazzi Smyth on the eleven year periods nearly coincident with the sun-spot cycles of the same duration. Whether the observed weather cycles of eleven years are due to the equally well observed sun-spot cycles, or to some other physical agency, it would seem clear that we have in this forecast one practical corroboration of the theory which ascribes the earth's great "heat waves" and their associate "cold waves" to varying solar or cosmical influences, with which modern astronomy is becoming increasingly familiar. The Astronomer Royal in 1872 said:- "We may expect the next occurrence of the great heat wave in or about 1880." We may, therefore, soon be able to test more fully the accuracy of his calculation and the practical value of the theory on which both it and his prediction of the recent "cold wave" were based. If the theory be sound, despite the present interruption to the warm weather which marked the autumn and the early part of December, we may yet have a comparatively temperate winter or early spring, and 1880 will be a favorable year for the American Arctic expedition and the other polar explorations now projected.

The Coup d'Etat of 1851. In the French Senate yesterday Marshal Canrobert made a statement in reference to the history of the famous day of December, 1851, which perhaps will scarcely change the accepted view more or less made up on various statements of the facts. He commanded the troops under arms that day at the point where they fired upon the assembled crowd of people on the Boulevards. It was a mere butchery, a cowardly and

the people by the communards in the Place Vendôme on March 22, 1871. As the commander of those troops on that occasion Canrobert has always been held responsible for that butchery. His statement now made is to the effect that he did not order the troops to fire, but stopped their firing, and that he believes the firing was the instinctive impulse of some raw soldiers under the irritation of the insults received from the crowd. It is very likely that this is the naked truth of the case, but this correction can hardly overtake an error with twenty-seven years' start.

The Broadway Rathroad.

Once more the project for a horse car line

in Broadway wriggles and shows signs of life. But in all the period since it was last heard from it has evidently not lain dormant, since it appears to have developed new and startling proportions. It is now not merely a Broadway railroad, but a whole system of downtown surface roads-Wall, Cortlandt, Fulton and Chambers streets are named as included in the plan. This is somewhat as if the sea serpent should disappear for a summer and return to us as a monster devil fish, with illimitable arms spreading out in every direction. Fortunately, however, neither railroads in Broadway nor any other streat-at least not railroads of this species—can now be made in absolute defiance of the will of the property owners; and if a majority of the owners believe this road would be an injury they can stop it. There has, however, come over the minds of Broadway property owners some change from the days when they were resolutely opposed to such a use of that street as is now proposed. They appear to be much less hostile to it, and their assent could perhaps be obtained if they had any certainty that the franchise would be a properly limited one and would fall into good hands. Without such security and without an ample price paid down for this valuable privilege the franchise would start in life as a swindle and would be a swindle all through. If we cannot have a road in which the rights of the public will be properly guaranteed it would be a good deal better to preserve the last great downtown street we have devoted to the exclusive use of ordinary wheeled vehicles.

PERSONAL INTELLIGENCE.

Every day in this world the births exceed the deaths by 25,020.

Epes Sargent, formerly editor of the Boston Trans script, is seriously ill.

Senators Charles W. Jones, of Florida, and B. F. Jones, of Louisians, are at the New York Hotel. Senstors Henry P. Baldwin, of Michigan, and Preston B. Piumb, of Kansas, are at the Fifth Avenue

John Morley, editor of the Fortnightty Review, will probably go into Parliament as successor to John

The New Orleans Picayune thinks that if Edward Cooper were an air cushion his father, Peter Cooper,

would have sat down on him long ago.

Lotta heartily desires to rest. She always was loaf sugar.—New York Herald. And has enough "sugar" to loaf all the rest of her days if she desires

to.—Cincinnati Commercial.

The earliest known genuine Hebrew coin is of copper, and is in the Cabinet du Boi in Paris, It bears a sacred seven-branched palm tree and letters forming the name of the high priest "Eliashib." Judge McCrary took leave of the members of the Cabinet at a dinner, given by the President and Mrs.

Hayes, Thursday evening, and left Washington yesterday morning for St. Louis, in company with Secretary Thompson. During Secretary Thompson's absence Commodore Jessers, chief of the Bureau of Ordnance, will be Acting Secretary of the Bureau of Ordnance, will be Acting Secretary of the Navy.

Paris Figure:—"Grande orise dans le monde où l'on s'habille:—Mme. Laferrière, la célèbre couturière, a reçu, nous dit-on, hier, une double démis-

sion: celles de ses deux premières, Mme. Guy et Mile Caroline, Mile Caroline touchait cent mille francs de traitement—plus qu'un ministre. Il est vrai qu'elle est plus utile qu'un ministre: elle ne poursuit pas le Gaulois."

London World:—'Mme. Judic is about to resppess

at the Variétés, with Dupuis and Baron, in a new piece, 'La Femme de Papa.' At the dress rehearsal Judic wore a dress of pale blue satin with a whole parterre of fuchsias and some yellow flower upon the long skirt. The appearance of this dress was greeted with quite a buzz of approval even from the critical audience at this dress rehearsal." Says an English critic:-"When a bride goes to the

altar conscious that she has played out all her trumps and lost the game for power, much of what girl feels that she is simply entering upon a humdrum state of life, whose petty miseries and general dreariness are known to her beforehand. If, on the other hand, it is the bridegroom who feels that he is possibly not wear that serene expression which one is glad to see upon a wedding day."

Paris society some ten years ago that the late Pros-per Mérimée had secretly married the Countess Montijo two or three years after the death of her first husband. On that point Mérimée personally was at all times most reticent, and to that wise discretion
was probably due his elevation to the Senatorial dignity. He was on very intimate terms with the Em press Eugénie, who had long called him 'godfather,' and one of his posthumous works, 'La Chambre sequently founded a comedy produced at the Odéon, came from the private library of the Tuileries, whither it was discovered, after September 4, in MS, shape and richly bound, for the use of the Empress." London World:-"It is possible that, in its own eyes, the Saturday Review is an institution of which Englishmen ought to be proud; if so, the Saturday such pride as Englishmen might be disposed to take in it. In a scoffing article on the Times the Saturday 'at the splendid palaces of the Escurial and the Pardo,' and after the word Pardo adds '(sic).' Now if that 'ric' means anything at all it is intended, apparently, to convey to the reader that, in the mind of the Salurday reviewer, Pardo ought to be Prado, and that the Times merits particular scoffing for the error. I would suggest to the Saturday reviewer Pardo is a château about seven miles from Madrid in the direction of the Escurial, and that, consequently, the Times was right for once and the Saturday Ret wrong."

A few days ago we stated with some satisfaction that Figure had realized in October nearly 200,000f. profit. The following is an extract from the report presented at the last session of the Supervising Com-

at about the amount of the month of October has remained at about the amount of the month of September, with an increase of 266 copies per dem, making a total of 79,016 copies. This is the highest daily issue that we have over regularly attained." We should remark that the month of October,

being comprised in the period of vacations and of the chase, and there being no Parliamentary session, is considered a bad mouth in journalistic business.

ARCHBISHOP LYNCH.

Among the arrivals of the steamer Adriatic, of the White Star line, yesterday, were the Most Rev. Archcoadjutor, Bishop O'Mahony, who was consecrated hishop of Armidale, Australia, five years ago, and has now been transferred to the see of Torouto as coadjutor with the right of succession. The Archbishop went to Europe during the aunmer and made an extended tour of the Continent. Hishop O'Mahony, previous to his consecration, was located in one of the parishes of the city of Cork, his native place. His translation had a precedent in the case of the present Archbishop Croke, of Cashel, who was first consecrated Bishop of Auckland, New Zealand.

FINE ARTS.

THE STATUE OF THE DEFENCE OF PARIS. The first prize of 15,000f. in the competition opened by the city of Paris for the best design for a memorial of the defence of Paris, to be erected at the rand-point of Courbevole, has been awarded to M. Barrias, whose bronze bust of Munkacsy is now in the Lenox Library. He carried off the prize from eighty-niue competitors. His design shows from eighty-nine competitors. His design shows an allegorical female figure representing the city of Paris, holding a sword in her right hand and protecting a wounded sailor who crouches at her feet. Among the principal competitors were MM. Gustave Doré, Taluet M thurin Moreau, Maillet, Lequien, Allouard, Doublemard, Chatrousse, Chaplain, Falguière, Bartholdi, Cugnot, Carrier-Beleuse, Steiner, Damé, Davenet and Rodin. The conditions limited the sculptors to two figures. The projects have been on exhibition at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts, in the Saile Mehpomène. The accepted work will be cast in bronze at the expense of the city of Paris.

THE ASTOR LIBRARY.

A reporter called upon Mr. John Jacob Astor veserday to ascertain that gentleman's plans and intentions in making the important real estate transfer by which Mr. Astor and his wife jointly make over to the Astor Library a piece of ground 100 by 50 feet on Lafayette place, adjoining the library. The transfer in question was briefly mentioned among the list of real estate transactions of Thurs-day, but no particulars were given. The property is on the cast side of Lafayette place, 161 feet south of Astor place, immediately adjoining the Astor Library building on the north. As stated above, it is 100 building on the north. As stated above, it is 100 feet front by 50 feet in depth, and at present the ground is partially occupied by a brick livery stable and some small frame structures. Mr. Astor was found at his office in Prince atreet. He stated that the information given above is all that is developed at present. The ground has been given to the Astor Library for the purpose of building an extension. This is all the hast to do with it, and the matter will now be in the hands of the trustees of the litrary. They have not even been informed yet of the trunsfer, nor can they be until they meet, in the course of a week or so. They will, probably, then discuss and decide upon the form and manner in which the extension to the building will be made, and the amount of money to be expended. Then an architect will be called upon to furnish plans and drawings, "and after all this is done," said Mr. Astor, "the public may be able to get some information as to what will be done wife the ground. One of the papers stated this morning that the plans were agreed upon. This is not true; moreover, as I have told you, the trustees do not even know of the transfer yet," Alexander Hamilton is president or the Board of Trustees: Mr. Astor, treasurer; Robbins Little, superintendent, and Frederick Saunders, librarian.

-OBITUARY.

PAUL DUPONT, FRENCH SENATOR. The death is announced by cable of Paul Dunont. Senator of France, who was born at Périgueux in 1796, of a family of printers. Having learned his father's profession he was connected for some years with the celebrated firm of Didot Frères, and founded about 1825 an extensive typographical establishment and issued official publications in such fine style as to carry off premiums at all national expositions since 1849. He also became proprietor of the paternal typography at Périgueux, was connected with the newspaper L'Eche de la Dordogne, and founded in 1862 a vast printing establishment at Clichy, where he employed female compositors, in spite of conflicts with the printers' unions at Paris and of strikes among his male employes. He was one of the originators of workingmen's mutual benefit societies, and gave his workmen a share in the profits of the business. He was a Deputy under the Orieans dynasty and during the whole period of the Second Empire, and was elected a Senator for Dordogne January 30, 1876, on the Bonapartist platform, for the torm ending in 1885. He was an officer of the Legion of Honor and author of various publications, including a "History of Printing" (two volumes, 1854.) and a "Dictionary of Formulas, or the Practical Art of Mayoralty" (1859).

JAMES M. MOTLEY.

James M. Motley died last evening at his residence, No. 116 East Eighteenth street, in the fifty-ninth year of his age, after a long service in mercantile Boston in 1820, and while still a young man came of New York, where he engaged in business occupations. He soon became well known among prominent merchants and the result was that he gained a permanent foothold. He was one of the founders of the Grocers' Bank, and since its establishment has been President of the Manhattan Oil Company. He was one of the founders of the Butchers and Grocers' Bank for been President of the Manhattan Oil Company. He was a director of the Butchers and Grocers' Bank for many years. He had also twice been a director of the Brooklyn bridge, a vacancy in which Board occurs by his death. Mr. Motley was unostentatiously identified with many of the charitable institutions of the city.

A despatch from Exeter, N. H., announces the death of Amos Tuck, who succumbed to an attack of apoplexy, after only two days' illness. Re was born at Parsonsfield, Me., and graduated at Dartmouth College in 1835, at which institution he also acted as a College in 1835, at which institution he also acted as a tutor. Subsequently he took up his residence in New Hampshire and represented his district in Congress from 1847 to 1853. In 1861 he became a member of the Peace Couvention. During the political excitement in New Hampshire in 1878 he again took an active part in politics, and on one occasion during the campaign, at a meeting of the republican State Committee, he denounced E. W. Chandler, calling him "a political tramp." This remark was subsequently printed in nearly all the leading journals of the country. Mr. Tuck was a man of conservative tendencies and was greatly respected.

JAMES WHERLER, JR.

James. Wheeler, Jr., who died at Little Falls, this State, on Sunday last, was born in this city March 14, 1834. He graduated from West Point in the class of 1855 and served on the frontiers and the Pacific coast as lieutenant in the First United States dracoast as licutement in the First United States dra-goons, afterward First regiment cavalry. He was cashiered on the Peninsula under General George B. McClellan for some disregard of orders. Since that time he has been instructor of tacties in various military schools until a few months ago, when his illness (Fright's disease of the kidneys) compelled his retirement and finally his death.

LIZZIE EDWARDS.

Mrs. Lizzie Edwards, the actress, died at the resi dence of her husband, Welsh Edwards, No. 50 West Pourth street, on Thursday. She made her last appearance on the stage at the Academy of Music last month for the benefit of the Order of Elks, of which her husband is a member. Her line of business was the assumption of juvenile characters.

PLYMOUTH CHURCH Gee Jam, a Chinese missionary connected with the

was present at Plymouth Church prayer meeting last evening, and delivered a short address. He told of his conversion to Christianity and the work of the American Mission Association on the Pacific coast. By the request of and the work of the American Migsion Association on the Pacific coast. By the request of Mr. Beecher he repeated the Lord's Prayer and sang a hymn in the Cuinese language.

At the conclusion of the prayer meeting the annual business meeting of the Church was held. The report of the treasurer showed that the total contributions during the year had been \$65,365 84; for pew rents, \$41,220. The collections for the poor during the same period were \$1,170 03. The clerk's report set forth that the total number of members on the roll book of the church at last report was 2,515, of which \$95 were males and 1,619 females. The total admissions during the year by letter was 33. Of this number 9 were males and 24 females. The number of admissions by profession was 51; males, 12; females, 39, making the total number of admissions during the year 84. The deaths during the year numbered 42, 22 of whom were males and 20 females. There were also 33 withdrawals, leaving the present membership 2,520.

The following are the names of the officers elected for the ensuing year:—Clerk—C. T. Christiansen. Assistans Clerk—F. C. Manvel. Treasurer—S. V. White. Auditors—Lorin Palmer, M. K. Moody George H. Day and Richard Hale. Deaconesses—Mrs. C. W. Morreil and Mrs. Carrie S. Dorlan, Members of the Examining Committee—Asron Healey and James A. Lane. The meeting then adjourned till next Friday ovening.